

VFW NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

Rachel Taylor, Department Chairman

The VFW National home was founded in 1925 and is located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. It began as a working farm and community where families left behind by war could remain together. Today it has evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of military members, veterans and their families during difficult times. The mission of the VFW National Home is to assist military members, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.

Families, with one or more children, can live rent free for up to four years with access to professional case management services, on-site childcare, life skills training, educational services, as well as recreational and community service opportunities. The VFW National Home is open to families of active military personnel, veterans, as well as relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. Currently there are 43 single-family homes in addition to the community facilities such as a gym, library, day care center, playgrounds, tribute park, chapel, grocery store and much more.

There is only one thing asked of the families accepted into the program: They must be committed to making changes in their lives. They are expected to demonstrate consistent progress towards their personal and family goals to remain at the VFW National Home. The crucial program provided by VFW National Home is a partnership with the whole family that requires commitment in order for each family to reach their full potential.

Assistance does not require families to live on campus. The VFW National Home consists of many caring professionals ready to provide assistance and guidance to families not only on campus, but in their own communities as well. If you or someone you know needs assistance, take the first step and ask for help. Contact the VFW National Home Helpline at 1-800-424-8360, or visit their website at vfnationalhome.org.

The goals of the program this year will be to focus on educating members in hopes of having all 43 houses at the National Home campus filled. Additional funding is needed to build more homes for our heroes who utilize this service. Education is key to reaching these goals as well as encouraging those who need help to make the call. Be the bridge and connect those who need help to these crucial services provided by the VFW National Home.

There are a multitude of ways we can help support the VFW National Home to ensure stability and services for our heroes and their families for generations to come. The Health and Happiness Fund, 10 cents per Auxiliary member, helps provide maintenance of the VFW Auxiliary sponsored buildings, emergency repairs and renovations, as well as Christmas and graduation gifts. How can you or your Auxiliary contribute to this vital program? Gift contributions through MALTA, Life Memberships, purchase a Tribute Brick in honor of your "who" hero or Auxiliary, purchase an item for the Tribute Park, as well as bring awareness to those who cross your path with VFW National Home apparel and distributing promotional material.

For over 100 years the VFW Auxiliary has been a vital part of contributing to the success of the VFW National Home. Through awareness, fundraising, and volunteering we can continue to do our part. The Health & Education Center, The Margaret A. Armstrong Guest Lodge and Memory Chapel, Early Education Center, the Community Center, and the VFW National Home's Welcome Center are a few of the projects that the VFW Auxiliary has contributed to, in addition to helping fund the California homes.

Keep in mind, donations are not limited to Auxiliaries and VFW/Auxiliary members. Organizations and individuals outside of the Auxiliary can make tax deductible donations to the National Home as well. Associate Life memberships are available to individuals or organizations who are not connected to the VFW/Auxiliary. Happy promoting!

If you would like to learn more about the VFW National Home and how you can help, visit vfwnationalhome.org

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in EACH of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative activity and/or event that demonstrates what and where the VFW National Home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the VFW National Home

Entry Form is Required and is available in the MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman by March 31st, 2027, for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30th, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen:

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary Department VFW National Home Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the best promotion of what and where the VFW National Home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the VFW National Home.

Winners will be announced and citations will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention. Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Department account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention for distribution to the winning VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman.

2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on page 5, and for the promotion of the Ambassador's Program Goals.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2027 VFWA National Convention. Money will be deposited into the VFWA Department account after the 2027 VFWA Auxiliary National Convention.

Department Legacy Award

A Legacy award will be awarded to one Outstanding Auxiliary Chairman for the best overall Promotion of the National Home Program.

Rachel Taylor
2026 – 2027 Department Chairman
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VFW Auxiliary National Year-End Report Worksheet VFW National Home 2026-2027

This form is for statistical purposes only.

The Department Chairman must submit this report form to their Department President by May 1.

This report is to be processed in MALTA by the Department President by May 10.

Department: _____ Number of participating VFW Auxiliaries: _____

VFW National Home

1. The number of VFW Auxiliaries that promoted the VFW National Home. _____
2. The number of VFW Auxiliaries that promoted the VFW National Home Helpine. _____
3. The number of VFW Auxiliaries that purchased at least one VFW National Home Life Membership in the current Program Year. _____
4. The number of VFW Auxiliaries that purchased at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick in the current Program Year. _____